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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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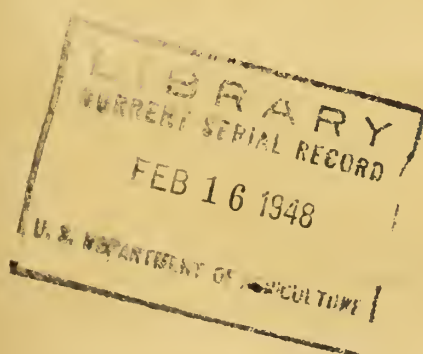
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FOR RELEASE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

Serious frost damage to the Mexican tomato crop in Northern Sinaloa occurred January 28 and 29. The extent of the damage is not yet accurately determined, but early reports indicate losses of 50 percent in Bamoa District and 65 percent in the Los Mochis area. In the Culiacan region vines were not hurt, but blossom damage was reported.

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Cotton imports into Belgium are not affected by the currency controls recently established by the Government to conserve foreign exchange. Export trade in cotton yarn and cloth, however, has become increasingly difficult in recent months because of exchange shortage and new import restrictions in other countries of Europe that normally import Belgian textiles.

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The Government of Szechuan Province (in southwest China) plans to purchase 1,500 tons of cottenseed from the United States in order to increase cotton acreage this year by about 65 percent.

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The new quota for export of raw jute to the United States from India to June 1948 is set by the Indian Government at 106,400 bales (19,000 long tons), it was reported on January 30 from Calcutta. A quota of 500,000 bales (of 400 pounds each) is set for total exports to all countries. Total imports of jute and jute butts into the United States included 75,572 long tons in 1946 and 39,668 long tons in the first 11 months of 1947.

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Shipments to North Atlantic ports during January included 8,231 bales of gunnies and 10,657 bales of raw jute from Calcutta and 2,723 bales of raw jute from Chittagong, the principal port of Pakistan. A total of 107,505 bales (or nearly 20,000 long tons) of jute was shipped during the period August 15, 1947, to January 19, 1948, from Chittagong to the United States, Australia, Italy, Great Britain, and Canada. Only 23,168 bales were shipped during the corresponding period a year ago. Present port capacity is reported at one million long tons, or approximately 5.6 million bales.

The official crop forecast as of September 1947 indicated that approximately 8.5 million bales of jute would be harvested from the 1947 crop, with more than 6.8 million bales of it in that part of Bengal which is included in the Government of Pakistan.

WORLD RICE PRODUCTION STILL BELOW PREWAR

The 1947-48 (August-July) world rice crop is forecast at 96 percent of prewar average production, in the third estimate of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The harvest is estimated at 7,100 million bushels of rough rice compared with 7,400 million bushels during the prewar (1935-36/39-40) average. The output, however, is nearly 150 million bushels larger than production of 6,950 million the year before.

The largest gain over 1946-47 harvests is in Asia, where crops are gradually recovering from the decrease in production caused by the war. The outturn of Europe and Africa is larger than that of last year. In the Western Hemisphere, the North American crop is sharply above that of a year earlier, but unfavorable conditions in some South American countries adversely affected crops, and production is forecast below that of the preceding year.

The harvest of Asia is estimated at 6,600 million bushels, 100 million more than in the year before, but 500 million bushels less than during the prewar period. Some increase took place in the production of Burma, China, Formosa, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Siam, and the Malayan Union. The crop was slightly smaller in Japan, and present prospects indicate the output of India may be below that of last year.

The total production of Asia's exporting countries, Burma, Siam, and French Indochina is estimated at 620 million bushels, or about 100 million bushels larger than that of a year earlier. Their combined production, however, is about 250 million bushels less than before the war.

In the fourth official estimate of China's 1947 rice crop, production is placed at 2,348 million bushels, compared with 2,329 million a year earlier, and with 2,453 million during the 1931-37 prewar average period. The crop of South Korea is 17 percent larger than in 1946, and 86 percent of prewar. Data are available for South Korea only, which before the war produced about 75 percent of Korea's total rice crop.

The acreage of Japan was larger than in 1946, and fairly good conditions prevailed during the early part of the season. Production equal to the good crop of the year before had been forecast, but typhoon damage in the principal rice area just before harvest resulted in a downward revision of the crop estimate.

The largest outturn since before the war was harvested in the Philippine Islands, despite a 5-percent crop reduction caused by December typhoons. Although the harvest was 4 million bushels larger than the 1935-39 average, it was 10 million less than average in the two years immediately prior to the war.

The Malayan Union is planting 95,000 more acres to rice than in the preceding year, a gain of 12 percent. Floods destroyed the sown acreage in some places, but a crop substantially above that of last year is expected to be harvested.

Favorable weather in Europe resulted in a bumper rice harvest. Production is estimated at 54 million bushels, 32 percent larger than last year's crop of 41 million, and 2 percent more than the prewar average of 53 million 1/ A more extensive statement may be obtained upon request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

ROUGH RICE: World acreage, yield per acre, and production, averages 1930-31 to 1939-40, annual 1945-46 to 1947-48 a/.

Continent and country	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production					
	Average			Average			Average					
	1930-31 to 1939-40	1945-46	1946-47	1935-36 to 1939-40	1947-48 b/	1945-46 to 1939-40	1930-31 to 1939-40	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1945-46 to 1939-40	1947-48 b/
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
North America:												
Costa Rica.....	- c/	23	-	- c/	38.3	-	871	839	967	995	-	-
El Salvador.....	22	25	34	27.7	27.7	-	530	693	799	799	1,180	1,180
Mexico.....	84	95	166	173	42.2	39.9	3,478	4,007	6,125	6,750	6,900	6,900
United States.....	883	1,004	1,494	1,677	49.7	47.3	41,572	49,852	68,150	72,216	79,345	79,345
Caribbean:												
Cuba.....	36	45	75	70	21.4	30.0	935	965	1,733	1,756	2,100	2,100
Dominican Republic d/	45	80	134	115	36.3	19.2	1,517	2,905	4,328	2,395	2,205	2,205
Trinidad.....	7	10	22	30.0	30.0	-	180	300	711	844	-	-
Total.....	1,130	1,410	2,180	2,330	-	-	51,100	62,900	88,600	91,600	100,400	100,400
Europe:												
Bulgaria.....	18	19	22	14	54.8	-	791	1,041	698	500	-	-
Italy.....	360	362	245	346	103.9	99.1	34,139	37,620	20,000	26,000	34,300	34,300
Portugal.....	39	50	55	65	68.0	64.0	1,740	3,398	2,179	3,500	4,160	4,160
Spain.....	117	110	119	124	127 e/	100.0	14,558	10,600	10,290	10,070	12,700	12,700
Total (excluding U.S.S.R.).....	540	560	470	600	-	-	51,500	53,100	34,200	41,000	54,200	54,200
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	328 c/	384	-	335	42.3	-	10,785 g/	16,225	-	-	-	-
Asia:												
Iran.....	560 c/	534	-	580	37.1	- c/	22,413	18,577	20,802	22,160	19,970	19,970
Iraq.....	316 c/	366	479	36	27.3	- c/	7,750	11,176	12,200	13,720	11,760	11,760
Turkey.....	66	78	45	36	61.2	-	3,329	4,774	2,387	3,052	3,138	3,138
British Malaya.....	740	746	790	797	36.3	28.6	25,333	27,099	18,650	20,460	25,000	25,000
Burma.....	12,770	12,671	6,983	7,788	27.5	29.9	358,219	348,534	134,455	194,114	269,114	269,114
China.....	47,099 c/	48,161	46,000	46,476	52.5	50.1	2,345,574	2,623,383	2,159,964	2,328,736	2,348,082	2,348,082
Formosa.....	1,509	1,616	-	1,297	53.0	50.4	75,340	85,704	40,671	55,109	73,100	73,100
Manchuria.....	472	782	951	400	40.6	-	14,923	31,783	39,117	15,000	-	-
French India.....	47	47	44	-	25.0	-	1,281	1,173	1,132	1,132	-	-
French Indochina.....	13,505 c/	14,020	9,800	9,600	22.5	22.1	281,497 c/	316,038	220,000	200,000	210,000	210,000
India f/.....	70,288	72,707	79,885	81,800	26.2	25.5	1,995,645	1,904,819	1,961,877	1,904,819	2,050,000	2,050,000
Korea.....	4,112	3,838 g/	2,584 g/	2,711 g/	51.0 c/	46.7	197,500	195,763 g/	117,321 g/	110,112 g/	128,650	128,650
Japan.....	7,887	7,862	7,600	7,700	75.8	69.7	557,217	595,845	457,007	561,082	545,447	545,447
Netherlands Indies h/.....	9,140 c/	9,716	7,770	8,640	31.6	-	276,935 c/	306,930	200,000	250,000	-	-
Philippine Islands.....	4,643	4,652	4,346	4,816	21.6	21.2	105,025	104,871	88,380	107,689	108,858	108,858
Siam.....	7,441	7,088	4,890	4,600	30.1	23.8	231,079	233,079	120,000	128,000	143,000	143,000
Total (Excluding U.S.S.R.).....	190,720	196,400	188,300	191,300	192,500	-	6,803,400	7,111,700	5,964,200	6,499,400	6,598,000	6,598,000

South America:											
Argentina.....	25	122	117	117	59.8	1,054	3,112	7,736	7,861		
Brazil.....	2,074	2,322	4,100	3,900	28.5	58,970	66,424	135,799	118,000	111,000	
British Guiana.....	78	70	101	-	50.8	3,445	3,559	5,028	5,349	-	
Chile.....	-	13	119	80	99.9	18	1,299	5,778	4,274	-	
Colombia.....	114	-	-	-	-	2,508	3,378	6,030	6,150	7,540	
Ecuador.....	-	-	-	-	-	2,212	3,439	7,691	7,627	-	
Paraguay.....	4	10	15	-	46.0	175	460	603	754	-	
Peru.....	126	107	148	-	42.8	4,551	4,578	8,291	6,448	-	
Surinam.....	29	31	40	-	46.0	1,078	1,703	1,724	2,507	1,029	
Uruguay.....	1	11	25	29	66.6	201	866	1,423	1,723	1,800	
Total.....	2,570	2,940	5,200	5,080	-	74,800	89,500	181,800	162,400	159,400	
Africa:											
Belgian Congo.....	-	220	297	-	11.2	-	2,475	4,605	4,541	4,409	
Egypt.....	352	463	654	805	76.7	20,876	33,155	42,454	45,973	61,760	
French West Africa.....	1,065	1,562	2,459	-	13.4	18,087	20,936	29,051	-	-	
Madagascar.....	1,354	1,195	1,430	1,480	24.6	34,166	33,823	37,722	34,293	36,350	
Sierra Leone.....	307	340	-	-	26.8	9,015	9,100	9,308	-	-	
Total.....	3,560	4,190	6,090	6,160	-	88,900	108,000	134,800	136,600	154,300	
Oceania:											
Australia.....	21	23	32	28	92.0	1,629	2,117	2,553	2,751	-	
Fiji Islands.....	10	10	24	-	43.1	480	431	1,060	-	-	
Total.....	40	40	90	90	-	2,200	2,700	4,700	4,900	4,800	
Total world.....	198,900	205,900	208,800	207,400	-	7,083,000	7,442,000	6,419,000	6,950,000	7,086,000	

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign-service officers, results of office research, and other information.

a/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first of the following year.

b/ Preliminary.

c/ Less than 5-year average.

d/ Calendar year prior to 1946-47.

e/ Average 1930-34.

f/ Includes acreage and production in areas regularly reported only comprising about 92 percent of the total rice area of India.

g/ South Korea only. In the 1935-39 period, production in South Korea averaged about 150,000,000 bushels.

h/ Java and Madura only.

bushels. Italy's output was markedly above that of 1946. The acreage was 45,000 acres larger than in the preceding year, and weather conditions were unusually favorable for a good crop. Weather in Spain likewise was beneficial, and yields approaching Spain's former high yields per acre were harvested. Production in Portugal also was larger than in 1946.

Africa's production is estimated at 160 million bushels, a gain of 16 percent above 138 million the year before, and an increase of 51 percent over 106 million before the war. Egypt's production rose sharply above the preceding year's near-record harvest. Nearly 150,000 acres more were planted, and large water supplies resulted in a harvest 34 percent more than that of 1946. Madagascar's crop is reported to be above that of last year.

More rice will be produced in the Western Hemisphere than in the preceding year, but the harvest will be below the record of two years ago, according to present prospects. The combined production of North and South America is estimated at 260 million bushels, compared with 254 million a year earlier, and with 152 million bushels before the war.

The production of North America is estimated at 100 million bushels, 8 million more than in the preceding year, and 38 million more than before the war. Another all-time high was reached in United States production, where weather conditions benefited the crop, and about 100,000 more acres were harvested than the previous largest acreage the year before. In Mexico, drought conditions in the Yaqui Valley in the State of Sonora prevented the planting of all Mexico's intended acreage and caused yields per acre to be below average. The latest information available, however, indicates that Mexico's production may be about the same, or slightly larger, than in the preceding year.

In a pre-harvest estimate of South America's rice production, the output is slightly smaller than the outturn a year ago. Brazil's acreage is reported down about 5 percent, and production may be 6 percent less than the preceding year's harvest. The acreage of Chile and Uruguay is larger than in the year before. Drought conditions caused Surinam's harvest to be less than one-half that of a year earlier. Colombia produced a record crop, but in Venezuela the outturn showed some reduction.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C.M. Purves, Fred J. Rossiter, Russell S. Kifer, L. Thelma Willahan, and Constance H. Farnworth.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

TOBACCONETHERLANDS REOPENS
TOBACCO AUCTIONS

Strong demand from domestic and foreign buyers pushed prices to levels well in excess of pre-auction estimates at the first postwar Netherlands tobacco auction held in Rotterdam, January 23.

Sales totalled about 1.3 million pounds and consisted of Java Besoeki cigar filler and binder leaf, principally from the 1939 crop. The average price for the quantity sold was \$1.43 per pound. About 80 percent of the consignment was purchased by the Netherlands cigar trade, with the remainder going to British, Swiss, Norwegian and Swedish buyers. The quality of the leaf was reported excellent.

The first postwar tobacco auction was an important step towards the Netherlands' recovery as a center for world tobacco trade, and further auctions are anticipated. Trade circles state that about 3.5 million pounds are in transit from the Netherlands Indies for sale in late February or March.

TURKISH TOBACCO
MARKET OPENS

Sales of the 1947 crop of Turkish leaf opened on the Smyrna market on January 26. During the first two days, approximately 29 million pounds were sold at an average price of 42 cents per pound with a range of 26 cents to 54 cents. Turkish and foreign firms purchased about 13 million pounds, and the balance was bought by the Government of Turkey. Considerable anxiety is felt by growers regarding disposition of the 1947 crop - about 60 percent of which consists of inferior grades.

PORTUGAL PLANS LARGE
BURLEY PURCHASES

Portugal's tobacco manufacturers will make substantial purchases of American Burley leaf this year, according to recent information from the American Embassy at Lisbon. About 5 million pounds will be required in 1948 by the country's two tobacco-manufacturing concerns.

In recent years, Portugal has become an increasingly important market for American Burley. During the five years 1935-39, our exports of this type of tobacco to Portugal averaged 2.5 million pounds annually. In 1946, however, our exports reached 6.6 million pounds, or 19 percent of total United States exports of this type of leaf.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTSDAIRY SEASON GOOD
IN AUSTRALIA

The outlook is excellent for an increase in production of dairy products in Australia in the current producing season. With pastures plentiful in practically all dairying districts, and milk cows in good condition and producing unusually well, production of dairy products in the summer months may reach the highest level in several years.

Butter production in October amounted to approximately 39 million pounds, an increase of about 20 percent over the same month of 1946, and the highest output for that month since 1941. In the first four months (July-October) of the new season, production amounted to 105 million pounds, an increase of 13 percent over the corresponding period a year earlier.

Cheese output in Australia in October 1947, which amounted to 13 million pounds, was about 5 percent above that for the same month a year ago. Production in the first four months of the 1947-48 season totalled 34 million pounds, which was an advance of approximately 4 percent over the same four months a year ago.

NEW ZEALAND WOOL
OFFERINGS

Wool offerings in New Zealand in the last half of the 1947-48 season are scheduled to total 683,000 bales or approximately 230 million pounds. Sales began at Invercargill on January 9 and will close at Wanganui on May 28.

Offerings during the first half of 1948 will be as follows in bales: January 123,000; February 154,000; March 125,000; April 158,000; and May 118,000, excepting offerings at Wanganui on May 28 which have not yet been scheduled.

Offerings in the first part of the new season which began November 21 at Auckland were expected to be about 60 million pounds. Periodical reports from the different selling centers indicate good clearances at prices considerably higher than a year earlier. Local mills, Bradford, United States and French and other Continental European buyers appeared to be competing strongly for the better sorts. December prices of 56's ordinary New Zealand wool at the London sales were 43 percent higher than in December a year earlier and those of 46's ordinary carding 26 percent higher.

Last season sales in New Zealand during the entire 1946-47 season totalled 934,730 bales or 308 million pounds, according to the records of Dalgety and Company. This was 9 percent smaller than the average for the preceding 5 seasons. The average price of grease wool for the 1946-47 season was 24.2 cents a pound and that of slipped (pulled wool) 29.9 cents. The grease price was 30 percent above the controlled price of 1945-46 whereas the price of slipes showed an increase of 20 percent.

WOOL OFFERINGS IN AUSTRALIA

Offerings of current clip wool in Australia at the various selling centers for the last half of the 1947-48 season (January-June 31), with the exception of the last quarter at Sydney, Newcastle and Goulburn, were reported at 1,481,500 bales or approximately 450 million pounds by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers.

Sydney offerings for the period January 12 to March 18 will comprise 310,500 bales or 93 million pounds of current clip wool and Goulburn and New Castle offerings are scheduled at 50,000 bales or about 15 million pounds. Offerings for the remainder of the season to June 17 in these centers have not been scheduled as yet. Approximately 3,450,000 pounds are scheduled for each selling day at Sydney up to the Easter recess.

Offerings in the Southern Centers and in Brisbane for the remainder of the season January to June will approximate 1,121,000 bales or approximately 340 million pounds as follows in bales: Melbourne 311,000 bales; Geelong 141,000; Albury 48,000; Ballarat 3,000; Adelaide 165,000; Western Australia 158,000; Tasmania 55,000 bales and Brisbane 240,000 bales.

In addition to the above offerings, the Australian Wool Realization Commission plans to offer approximately 130,000 bales or around 40 million pounds out of Joint Organization Stocks. Merino combing wool represents about 32 percent of the total, greasy merino carding wool about the same percentage, greasy crossbred 25 percent and scoured wool 12 percent.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

RECORD FLOUR PRODUCTION IN CANADA

Canada's production of wheat flour during 1947 was reported at 28.1 million barrels, the largest production on record for any calendar year. The previous record of 27.4 million barrels was reported for 1946.

The peak of this year's production was reached in May, with an output of 2.6 million barrels. Some decline from this high point extended through October, with a sharper reduction in November, and again in December, when production dropped to 1.7 million barrels, the smallest output for any month since July 1942.

The smaller 1947 wheat crop has resulted in lower supplies being available to millers, and the flour production for the crop year 1947-48 is expected to be well below the record output for the crop year ended July 31, 1947. Total production for the first five months of the current crop year was more than 400,000 barrels below the total for the corresponding period of the preceding year. Flour exports were maintained at a high level, amounted to 60 percent of the total flour produced for the past five months.

CANADA: Wheat flour production and exports, 1939-1947

Calendar Year	Wheat ground 1,000 bushels	Flour produced 1,000 barrels a/	Flour exported 1,000 barrels a/
1939	77,007	15,752	5,342
1940	73,455	17,416	6,971
1941	95,152	20,869	11,439
1942	92,853	20,760	10,638
1943	108,448	24,475	12,897
1944	107,304	24,292	13,939
1945	111,278	25,059	13,731
1946	121,824	27,375	14,984
1947 -			
January	11,077	2,478	1,380
February	9,918	2,212	1,231
March	10,493	2,354	1,356
April	10,790	2,399	1,114
May	11,742	2,625	2,308
June	11,188	2,497	2,342
July	10,189	2,265	1,641
August	10,951	2,413	1,546
September	11,200	2,481	1,293
October	11,432	2,531	1,583
November	9,796	2,160	1,198
December	7,652	1,692	1,092
Total	126,428	28,107	18,084

From official reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

a/ In barrels of 196 pounds.

COTTONPAKISTAN GOVERNMENT ISSUES REGULATIONS
GOVERNING COTTON PRICES AND TRADE

The Pakistan Government announced on January 24 a regulation that maintains existing statutory floor and ceiling prices on cotton, raises the export duty on cotton from 20 rupees a bale of 400 pounds (1.51 cents a pound) to 40 rupees (3.02 cents), reinstates government licensing control over cotton exports to all destinations and freezes all stocks of cotton textiles except those in possession of retailers. The government had announced on October 30, the removal of all restraints on exports of raw cotton to August 31, 1949.

Exports of cotton since Sept. 1 have totalled approximately 200,000 bales (of 400 pounds) all to the Dominion of India. An additional 300,000 bales are reported sold for later delivery to India and 300,000 bales to other destinations.

Most of the cotton crop in Pakistan will be available for export as there are only nine cotton mills in the country. Annual mill production (1946) amounted to 170 million yards in Bengal and 74 million in Punjab

out of the total of 4,000 million yards produced by mills in all India. Handloom production accounted for an additional 200 million of India's total of 1,500 million. On the basis of 13 yards per capita the annual deficit is estimated at about 945 million yards, most of which normally is obtained from mills in India.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths
and qualities in specific markets

Market location, kind, and quality	Date : 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria	:	: Kantar	:	:	:
Ashmouni, Good.....	: 1-29	: 99.05 lbs.	: Tallari	: 59.50:	49.64
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	: "	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Giza 7, Good.....	: "	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Giza 7, F.G.F.....	: "	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
Karnak, Good.....	: "	: "	: "	: 68.00:	56.73
Karnak, F.G.F.....	: "	: "	: "	: 66.50:	55.48
Bombay	:	: Candy	:	:	:
Jarila, Fine.....	: "	: 784 lbs.	: Rupee	: 560.00:	21.55
Broach, Fine.....	: "	: "	: "	: 630.00:	24.24
Sind American, Fine.....	: "	: "	: "	: 780.00:	30.01
Punjab " 289-F, Fine:	: "	: "	: "	: 790.00:	30.40
Kampala, East African....	: "	: "	: "	: 920.00:	35.40
Buenos Aires	:	: Metric ton	:	:	:
Type B.....	: 1-30	: 2204.6 lbs.	: Peso	: 2,710.00:	36.60
Lima	:	: Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Tanguis, Type 5.....	: 1-29	: 101.4 lbs.	: Sol	: *170.00:	25.79
Pima, Type 1.....	: "	: "	: "	: *201.00:	30.49
Recife	:	: Arroba	:	:	:
Mata, Type 5.....	: 1-30	: 33.07 lbs.	: Cruzeiro	: 130.00:	21.39
Sertao, Type 5.....	: "	: "	: "	: 140.00:	23.03
Sao Paulo	:	:	:	:	:
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	: "	: "	: "	: 176.50:	29.04
Torreon	:	: Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Middling, 15/16".....	: "	: 101.4 lbs.	: Peso	: 149.00:	30.23

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

*Nominal.

1/ Spot quotations (nominal) for December 24 not previously available. In rupees per candy, Jarila, 485.00; Broach, 580.00; Punjab American 289-F, Fine, 660.00; Sind American, Fine, 640.00. In U.S. cents per pound--18.67, 22.33, 25.40, 24.64, respectively.

FATS AND OILSUNITED KINGDOM FATS AND
OILS IMPORTS INCREASING

The United Kingdom's 1947 gross imports of fats and oils (in terms of oil) amounted to 2,727 million pounds, 22 percent more than in the previous year but 22 percent less than in 1938. While receipts of most fats and oils, particularly animal and marine, were considerably less than before the war, copra, palm kernels, castor beans and their respective oils, and linseed oil exceeded those of the prewar period. For many years the United Kingdom has ranked first as an importer of animal fats, accounting for approximately four-fifths of the butter and lard and more than one-fourth of the tallow during the late 1930's.

Exports of fats and oils, excluding soap, (in terms of oil) totalled 37,000 pounds in 1947 compared with 56,400 a year earlier and 288,400 in 1938. More than half of last year's exports were in the form of margarine and cooking fats. In addition to the 37,000 pounds, soap shipments in 1947 amounted to 819 million pounds, 10 percent smaller than in 1946 and less than half the quantity exported in 1938.

UNITED KINGDOM: Imports of specified fats and oils, 1947 with comparisons

Commodity	1938	1946	1947
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds
Cottonseed.....	1,390,010	144,798	79,285
Cottonseed oil unrefined.....	11,800	7,414	10,147
Peanuts:			
In the shell.....	18,285	70,795	110,713
Shelled.....	712,826	896,000	559,969
Soybeans.....	220,770	14,520	58,101
Soybean oil unrefined.....	7,188	--	4,567
Sunflower and safflower seed oil.....	2	29,774	40,584
Olive oil, unrefined.....	10,667	692	56
Olive oil refined.....	9,851	1	2,203
Copra.....	254,625	106,257	286,019
Coconut oil unrefined.....	79,865	40,755	138,251
Coconut oil refined.....	5,843	--	--
Palm kernels.....	299,022	798,455	815,364
Palm oil unrefined.....	294,491	257,450	341,011
Flaxseed.....	619,042	234,002	90,044
Linseed oil.....	42,184	134,714	250,280
Castor beans.....	71,221	59,716	91,849
Castor oil.....	7,654	327	13,496
Rapeseed.....	47,374	3,696	892
Tung oil.....	17,111	8,942	19,504
Other oilseeds.....	25,854	34,765	76,810
Other vegetable oils, refined.....	16,255	89	1,734
Margarine.....	12,196	33	85

Continued -

Commodity	1938	1946	1947
:	1,000:	1,000:	1,000
:	<u>pounds</u> :	<u>pounds</u> :	<u>pounds</u>
:	:	:	:
Oleo-margarine and oleo-oil.....:	16,502:	3,199:	4,849
Lard.....:	161,383:	79,647:	34,515
Butter <u>a/</u>:	1,066,006:	473,388:	484,492
Tallow:	:	:	:
Unrefined.....:	54,499:	28,143:	51,265
Refined.....:	46,789:	30,513:	46,529
Whale oil.....:	505,543:	149,854:	326,110
Other animal oils including fish oils: <u>b/</u>	44,551:	45,631:	46,182
:	:	:	:

Compiled from official sources.

a/ There were 8.9 million pounds of butter reexported in 1938; 1.8 million pounds in 1946, and 5.1 million pounds in 1947.

b/ Includes some vitamin oils.

UNITED KINGDOM: Exports of specified fats and oils, 1947 with comparisons

Commodity	1938	1946	1947
:	1,000:	1,000	1,000
:	<u>pounds</u> :	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
:	:	:	:
Cottonseed oil, unrefined.....:	16,578:	--	224
Cottonseed oil, refined.....:	6,817:	3,704	1,450
Peanut oil.....:	81,583:	302	1,747
Soybean oil.....:	14,343:	19	40
Linseed oil.....:	27,017:	981	334
Castor oil.....:	13,756:	2,921	134
Other vegetable oils, n.e.s.....:	36,320:	12,763	7,213
Cooking fats.....:	8,297:	2,192	6,919
Margarine.....:	5,296:	15,737	13,579
Tallow.....:	20,653:	74	20
Stearine.....:	5,750:	2,762	419
Animal oils (except marine animal)	:	:	:
oils and fats unrefined.....:	32,487:	12,230	1,660
Animal oils including fish oils,	:	:	:
refined.....:	9,477:	1,861	2,414
Whale oil.....:	4,464:	273	11
Other fish and marine animal oils,	:	:	:
unrefined.....:	7,540:	625	620
Soap stock.....:	5,477:	1,548	85
Soap.....:	1,626,757:	912,596	819,002
:	:	:	:

Compiled from official sources.

FRENCH RAPESEED PLANTINGS DOWN

The area planted to winter rapeseed in France for the 1948 spring harvest amounted to 256,000 acres, of which 214,000 acres were planted to colza and 41,000 to navette. This is 11 percent less than the 1946 fall plantings and 18 percent less than the acreage planted in 1945. The winter freeze of a year ago, however, damaged the crop to the extent that only 135,000 acres of the 287,000 planted were harvested.

The cultivation of winter colza tends to be increasingly concentrated in Northern France and in the region centering around Paris as a result of favorable outturn of the crops of this region in recent years. The advantageous price assured by the Government's plan for encouraging the production of oilseeds and the high price obtained in the black market for oil also make the crop attractive. On the other hand, the highly variable yields obtained in other regions of France discourage producers from planting colza. The area planted to navette this year has been considerably reduced throughout the country.

Although the seeding of winter oilcrops was retarded by drought in the fall, increasingly abundant rainfall in November and December was beneficial, and crop conditions are now satisfactory.

Over 215,000 short tons of vegetable fats and oils are expected to be available from French Colonies to help supply the requirements for the estimated deficit of France and French North Africa. This would comprise 143,000 tons of oil, largely in the form of peanuts, 11,000 tons of palm oil, 35,000 tons of palm kernel oil, 21,000 tons of copra and 5,500 tons of karite butter.

CHILE AGAIN PLANTS RECORD SUNFLOWER-SEED ACREAGE

Chile established a new record when 58,000 acres of sunflower seed were planted the past fall for harvest in March 1948. This represents an increase of approximately 5 percent over last year's area and 228 percent over the 1940-44 average plantings. With the exception of the decrease in 1946, sunflower-seed acreage has increased substantially each season since 1940, when only 4,000 acres were cultivated to this crop. In spite of this rapid expansion, sizeable imports of vegetable oils and oilseeds have been necessary to meet domestic requirements. Price increases, resulting from the extreme scarcity of fats and oils, have stimulated increased sowing.

Over 12,000 acres were planted to hempseed (seed and fiber) for spring harvest. This is 20 percent more than last year's acreage but 53 percent less than the 1940-44 average. Flaxseed (seed and fiber) plantings (12,000 acres) were down 8 percent from last year's and 18 percent from the 1940-44 average.

ARGENTINE TALLOW AND LARD EXPORTS SHOW SLIGHT INCREASE 1/

The following tables show Argentine exports of tallow and lard by country of destination during January-November 1947 with comparisons:

1/ A more detailed statement on the subject may be obtained upon request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

ARGENTINA: Tallow and cattle fat exports, Jan.-Nov. 1947 with comparisons
(Gross weight)

Country of destination	January-November			
	1945	1946	1946	1947
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:				
Mexico.....	10,840	6,429	6,401	656
Others.....	11,852	3,518	3,367	814
Total.....	22,692	9,947	9,768	1,470
South America.....	12,947	2,589	2,278	4,724
Europe:				
Belgium.....	1,429	761	761	1,286
France.....	138	2,572	2,572	1,238
Italy.....	--	1,017	1,017	3,469
Netherlands.....	327	1,120	1,120	2,988
Sweden.....	635	714	714	1,883
Switzerland.....	398	4,026	3,896	1,832
United Kingdom.....	19,982	5,380	5,158	17,486
Others.....	3,979	733	732	10,048
Total.....	26,888	16,323	15,970	40,230
China.....	--	--	--	72
Soviet Union.....	--	7,355	4,847	4,508
Others.....	347	13	13	589
Grand total.....	62,874	36,227	32,876	51,593

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

ARGENTINA: Lard exports, Jan.-Nov. 1947 with comparisons
(Gross weight)

Country of destination	January-November			
	1945	1946	1946	1947
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:				
Mexico.....	28,990	1,481	1,481	--
Others.....	1,19	726	726	724
Total.....	30,181	2,207	2,207	724
South America.....	18,130	3,935	3,433	3,204
Europe:				
Hungary.....	--	--	--	2,389
Italy.....	--	450	--	4,234
United Kingdom.....	5,881	5,024	4,718	3,821
Others.....	3,832	1,738	1,719	585
Total.....	9,713	7,212	6,437	11,029
Soviet Union.....	--	1,486	1,486	--
Others.....	726	174	174	157
Grand total.....	58,750	15,014	13,737	15,114

Compiled from official sources and consular reports.

(Continued on Page 102)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

BRITISH FOOD SUBSIDY:
AND PRICE DATA

In recent statements, the British Ministry of Food gave the following data on the prices of subsidized foods and the total and per unit costs of these subsidies in the United Kingdom.

Commodity	Unit	United Kingdom				United States
		Prices and subsidy costs				1/
		Retail price	Subsidy	Retail price	Estimated total	Retail price
		per unit	per unit	plus subsidy	subsidy cost	per unit
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Million dollars	Cents
Bread.....	lb.	4.3	2.4	6.7	211	13.6
Flour.....	"	4.2	2.7	6.9	145	10.8
Sugar.....	"	8.4	3.4	11.8	109	9.9
Potatoes.....	"	2.1	0.6	2.7	80	5.3
	to			to		
		3.0		3.6		
Meat.....	"	6.7	7.1	13.8	246	46.8
	to		(average)	to		to
		43.7		50.8		85.0
Bacon.....	"	18.5	1.7	20.2	70 (incl.	87.2
	to			to	ham)	
		42.0		43.7		
Butter.....	"	26.9	18.5	45.4	97	95.4
Margarine....	"	15.1	4.6	19.7	29	41.7
	(Spec. grade)					
Cooking fat....	"	20.2	2.9	23.1	4	45.6
Lard.....	"	20.2	15.5	35.7	6	36.2
Shell eggs....	doz.	30.2	41.6	71.8	109	81.8
	to			to		
		35.3		76.9		
Milk.....	qt.	16.8	4.2	21.0	151	19.9
Cheese.....	lb.	16.8	19.3	36.1	91	61.4
Tea.....	lb.	57.1	9.7	66.8	36	97.2 (July)
	to			to		
		77.3		87.0		
Total above						
items		-	-	-	1,384	-

1/ Bureau of Labor Statistics retail prices for the month of December, 1947.
British retail prices are for the week of December 8, 1947.

The weight of the food subsidies on the British tax payer is illustrated by the fact that, according to a statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the costs of these subsidies amount to 36.7 percent of the standard rate of the British income tax, which is 9 shillings per pound sterling, or 45 cents per dollar. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, December 15, 1947, p. 405.)

FATS AND OILS (Continued from Page 100)POLAND PROMOTES
OILSEED CULTIVATION

Poland is promoting increased cultivation and processing of oleaginous plants in view of the great shortage of fats. In 1946-47 the area cultivated amounted to 158,000 acres; in 1947-48, to 247,000 (83,000 to rapeseed); and the plans for 1948-49 provide for the cultivation of 593,000 acres. Production of oil is increasing. At present, there are 594 oil mills in Poland which process 165,000 short tons of oilseeds per year.

L A T E N E W S (Continued from Page 37)

Tomato production in Jamaica is estimated at 5 million pounds. Good rains recently have favored the crop. Shipments via air express to the United States to date total 43,000 pounds and the total for the season is expected to reach 280,000 pounds. Approximately 2,000,000 pounds are expected to be shipped to Canada.

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Winter grain (rye and wheat) and perennial grasses in the Soviet Union passed the first part of the winter in a satisfactory condition according to an official report. Of the 200 tests of winter grain samples made in different localities, only three in Siberia and one in European Russia showed any thinning of the crop. Weather conditions during the first 10 days of January were also considered favorable to the winter crops. However, the lack of snow cover in North Caucasus, Lower Volga and the Ukraine, where most of the Russian winter wheat acreage is concentrated, constitutes a potential source of danger to the winter grain.

The area planted to winter grain in the autumn of 1947 for the 1948 harvest was reported to be 8,600,000 acres, or about 10 percent above that of the preceding year.

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